

**A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE FUTURE USE AND OWNERSHIP OF
THE OLD MCHENRY COUNTY COURTHOUSE
AND SHERIFF'S HOUSE**

WHEREAS, the City Council established the Old Courthouse and Sheriff's House Advisory Commission (herein after referred to as the Advisory Commission) and charged them with creating and forwarding a common vision of the ownership and use of the Old Courthouse and Sheriff's House for consideration and approval by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the Advisory Commission has reviewed reports from the Urban Land Institute and Artspace, Inc. which indicate that private ownership is not profitable and, therefore, unsustainable; and

WHEREAS, the Advisory Commission surveyed the public and found that 79 percent of respondents favored some form of public ownership and 66 percent of respondents favored arts and dining uses; and

WHEREAS, *The Friends of the Old Courthouse and Sheriff's House* and City Staff have reported that fundraising, including grant applications, cannot be pursued until the ownership and overall use of the property are established; and

WHEREAS, the Advisory Commission has looked at ownership scenarios for similar properties and found many examples of successful public/non-profit partnerships; and

WHEREAS, the Old Courthouse has been utilized in part as an Arts Center since the early 1970s; and

WHEREAS, ownership and use of the Sheriff's House and Jail may be dependent on whether or not that space is required to make future uses of the Old Courthouse sustainable.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Woodstock, McHenry County, Illinois finds it to be in the best interests of the City of Woodstock and its residents to retain ownership of the Old Courthouse as stewards in perpetuity; to retain ownership of the Sheriff's House and Jail, at least until such time as the City is certain the space is not needed to sustain uses in the Courthouse; and, if it is ultimately determined the Sheriff's House is not needed to sustain uses in the Courthouse, to consider conveying it only to an entity with the appropriate and necessary resources to properly protect and preserve it in perpetuity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all future use scenarios of the Old Courthouse should incorporate, but may not be limited to, a restaurant use and arts center use as generally described in the Artspace Creative Spaces Report of August 2016.

Passed this _____ day of _____, 2016

Ayes:

Nays:

Abstentions:

Absentees:

Brian Sager, Ph.D., Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk